

Dear Honorable Members of the Commerce Committee,

I strongly oppose HB 5263, An Act Concerning the Processing of Rabbits for Consumption, and I do not want my tax dollars used to promote the killing of rabbits. Rabbits are beautiful animals- smart and sociable with unique personalities, and are common household pets.

Please bear in mind that due to public demand, most cosmetic companies no longer test on rabbits, many furriers no longer produce coats made from rabbit pelts, and there are now laws banning the sale of commercially bred pets in many pet stores. Several years ago, when Whole Foods tried selling rabbit meat, vigorous public outcry led to the discontinuation of the sale of rabbit meat by Whole Foods and other stores.

Considering the emerging viral threats that cross species from animals to humans, Connecticut's Department of Agriculture should instead be promoting plant-based markets, including expansion and innovation of plant-based proteins to ensure a great availability of a more diverse, safe, and dependable protein source.

Best regards,

Colleen M. Menard, LICSW

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